

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8331
INFO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 LONDON 14472

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 14472 VICE 04472)

STATE FOR PA AND PA/PRESS; DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR
DR. BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL ICA
FOR PGM/PPE, EU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP: VANCE (CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: PRESS SECRETARY CARTER'S MIDDAY JULY 19
BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF HODDING CARTER'S MIDDAY
PRESS BRIEFING FOLLOWING MIDDLE EAST FOREIGN
MINISTERS' JULY 19 MORNING SESSIONS:
CARTER: GOOD AFTERNOON. YOU ARE IN GREAT GOOD FORTUNE,
THIS BRIEFING WILL NOT HAVE TO BE THE BEALL AND END
ALL FOR YOU. AS YOU KNOW SECRETARY VANCE WILL BE HERE
AT 4.30 PM. WE WILL HAVE A PREPARED STATEMENT WHICH I
TRUST I WILL HAVE MADE UP SO THAT YOU CAN ALL HAVE A
COPY AT THE TIME THAT HE IS GIVING IT. HE WILL ALSO
TAKE QUESTIONS. HE HAS A PROBLEM. HE REALLY CANNOT
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EXCEED A HALF HOUR, BUT IN ANY CASE TO THAT DEGREE WE
WILL HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE.

THIS MORNING THE SECRETARY HAD BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH
THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS SEPARATELY. IT WAS A TOTAL
OF TWO AND A HALF HOURS OF TALK, ALMOST EQUALLY
DIVIDED. THE GROUPS MET INFORMALLY AT DINNER LAST NIGHT

AND AGAIN JUST NOW, THEY ARE STILL MEETING AT LUNCH. THEY WILL MEET IN PLENARY AT 2.00 PM, AND THE EXPECTATION IS THAT IT WILL BE OVER IN TIME FOR HIM TO BE HERE AT 4.30 PM. HE WILL DEPART FOR LONDON SHORTLY AFTER 5.00 PM. I DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH TO OFFER ON CHARACTERIZATION OF THE BILATERAL TALKS EXCEPT THAT THEY WERE FURTHER EXPLORATORY CONVERSATIONS AIMED AT THE SAME OBJECTIVE THAT WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING ALL ALONG. I THINK THE SECRETARY WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK FAR MORE SUBSTANTIVELY TO YOUR QUESTIONS. HE ALSO MET BRIEFLY WITH EACH OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS LAST NIGHT AFTER DINNER. I DON'T THINK THAT I HAVE ANYTHING ELSE OF SUBSTANCE.

QUESTION: IT'S BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE MIGHT VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IS THAT JUST A RUMOUR OR IS THERE ANY FACT TO IT?

CARTER: I THINK THE SECRETARY OF STATE REALLY WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION AND IN FACT UNDOUBTEDLY WILL.

QUESTION: WHAT CONCLUSIONS SHOULD WE DRAW FROM THE FACT THAT YOU ARE SHOWING UP HERE ALONE?

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CARTER: NONE, NOTHING REALLY AT ALL, BECAUSE SINCE I WASN'T COMING HERE WITH ANY KIND OF A BRIEF AT ALL, IT WAS JUST FELT THAT I COULD AS EASILY NOT ANSWER THE QUESTIONS AS THREE PEOPLE NOT ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: CAN YOU SAY AT THIS POINT WHETHER OR NOT IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE A RESUMPTION OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE?

CARTER: I REALLY DON'T WANT TO TRY AGAIN TO GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID. I WANT TO SUGGEST AGAIN TO YOU THAT WHATEVER THE SEMANTICS MAY BE, WHAT YOU HAVE HAD IN FIVE AND A HALF HOURS YESTERDAY WAS IN GREAT PART DIRECT CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL. NOW, HOW THEY MAY BE CHARACTERISED I WILL LEAVE TO OTHERS, BUT THE FACT IS THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A VERY FEW MINUTES OUT OF THAT FIVE AND A HALF HOURS WHAT YOU HAD WAS AN EXPOSITION AND A SET OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES SIMPLY WAS NOT INVOLVED EXCEPT TO BE THERE PHYSICALLY.

QUESTION: ARE THESE BILATERALS AIMED AT A PROCEDURAL

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8332

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 14472 VICE 04472)

QUESTION SUCH AS SETTING UP THE MECHANISM FOR
CONTINUING TALKS OR ARE THEY SUBSTANTIVE IN NATURE
AS WELL?

CARTER: THE ANSWER IS BOTH.

QUESTION: WAS THERE ANY REASON THAT THE TWO, THREE
PARTIES DID NOT MEET FORMALLY TODAY ALTOGETHER
UNTIL THE AFTERNOON?

CARTER: THE ONLY REASON I CAN OFFER IS THAT THEY FELT
IT WAS USEFUL TO HAVE THE BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS.
THE FACT THAT THEY ARE MEETING IN PLENARY OUGHT TO ALSO
SPEAK FOR ITSELF - THAT THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT IT
WAS NO LONGER USEFUL TO MEET TOGETHER,
ARE MEETING TOGETHER.

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QUESTION: ON THE 10TH JULY THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ANSWERED THE QUESTION THAT IF THERE WERE A STALEMATE HE WOULD MAKE HIS OWN SUGGESTIONS. DO YOU EXPECT ANY SUGGESTIONS TO COME OUT THIS EVENING?

CARTER: I DO NOT EXPECT THAT WE WILL BE PUTTING ANY PROPOSALS ON THE TABLE HERE.

QUESTION: IS THERE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GAP HAS BEEN NARROWED AT ALL BETWEEN THE PARTIES SO FAR?

CARTER: ON THAT I REALLY WOULD RATHER YOU ADDRESS THAT ONE DIRECTLY TO THE SECRETARY.

QUESTION: YOU WERE SAYING THAT PART OF THE SUBJECT MATTER THIS MORNING WAS SUBSEQUENT (SIC) NEGOTIATIONS. SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS HERE OR ELSEWHERE?

CARTER: I THINK THAT THE CONVERSATIONS WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL BOTH HAD TO DO WITH HOW THEY MIGHT PROCEED THIS AFTERNOON AND ALSO THE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR PROCEEDING BEYOND HERE, THAT IS AT OTHER MEETINGS -- TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION DIRECTLY, YOUR QUESTION BEING WHETHER IT WAS ON PROCEDURE HERE OR BEYOND HERE.

QUESTION: WOULD THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO BE A PARTICIPANT IN THOSE SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS?

CARTER: I THINK THAT AGAIN THE SECRETARY OUGHT TO SPEAK TO THAT, BUT LET ME JUST SAY GENERALLY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS READY TO MEET AT ANY TIME THE PARTIES
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BELIEVE THAT OUR PRESENCE WOULD BE USEFUL AND WE HAVE INDICATED THAT BEFORE AND THAT IS STILL SO.

QUESTION: HAS THE DECISION BEEN MADE TO SEND MR. ATHERTON TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

CARTER: YESTERDAY I ANSWERED THAT I WOULD REALLY HESITATE TO SUGGEST A PLACE AND A DEFINITE SCHEDULE, THE ANSWER IS THAT, YES ROY (ATHERTON) WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE GOING BACK SOON. I STILL AS OF THIS MOMENT HESITATE TO GIVE YOU AN EXACT SCHEDULE. I THINK THAT

AGAIN IT MAY BE THAT BY 4.30 PM YOU WILL HAVE A
BETTER ANSWER ON THAT. I HESITATE BECAUSE I THINK I
COULD BE EASILY WRONG, I DON'T THINK IT'S SET ENOUGH.

QUESTION: IN THE BILATERALS WAS THE SECRETARY OF STATE
ASKING QUESTIONS OF EACH FOREIGN MINISTER, OR WAS HE
IN SOME CASES PUTTING IDEAS TO THEM TO SEE WHAT THEIR
RESPONSE WOULD BE?

CARTER: I THINK THAT IS A GOOD ONE TO ASK THE
SECRETARY. I WOULD RATHER JUST SAY THAT THEY WERE
EXPLORING, CONTINUING TO EXPLORE BOTH MATTERS OF
SUBSTANCE AND MATTERS OF PROCEDURE. THE QUESTION
IS WAS THE SECRETARY IN FACT PUTTING MATTERS TO THEM
OR WAS HE SIMPLY EXPLORING WHERE THEY WERE.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE TOMORROW?

CARTER: HE HAS A BREAKFAST WITH DAVID OWEN (BRITISH
FOREIGN SECRETARY). I BELIEVE HE WILL MEET WITH
HIS MIDDLE EAST GROUP, WITH ROY (ATHERTON) AT ANY
RATE, AT MID-MORNING. BEYOND THAT I DON'T HAVE A

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CORRECTED COPY (MRN 14472 VICE 04472)

DEFINITE SCHEDULE FOR HIM EXCEPT LUNCH AND THEN
DEPARTURE ABOUT 3.00 PM.

QUESTION: DO YOU FEEL THAT AFTER FIVE AND A HALF HOURS
TALKS YESTERDAY THAT THE TWO PARTIES INCLUDING THE
UNITED STATES FEEL THAT IT IS OF NO USE TO CONTINUE THE
TALKS IN THIS FORM NOW OR IN THE FUTURE?

CARTER: NO, WE DID NOT. ONE, OF COURSE, WE ARE
CONTINUING TODAY AND TWO, AS TO WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN
THE FUTURE, I DON'T THINK THAT I CAN REALLY SPEAK TO
THAT RIGHT NOW. I WOULD STRONGLY LEAN AGAINST THE
NOTION THAT AT THE END OF FIVE AND A HALF HOURS
YESTERDAY THERE WAS ANY FEELING THAT THESE WERE
WORTHLESS EXERCISES OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU ANY REACTION TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S
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REMARKS YESTERDAY IN KHARTOUM?

CARTER: NO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT REMARKS YOU ARE TALKING
ABOUT.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK IT'S LIKELY THAT THEY WILL USE
AGAIN LEEDS CASTLE AS A CONFERENCE CENTER GIVEN THE
SPLENDID COMMUNICATIONS?

CARTER: LET ME SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE FEELING OF THE
UNITED STATES DELEGATION AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE.
WE FEEL THAT THE ACCOMMODATIONS THAT WE HAVE BEEN OFFERED
HAVE BEEN SPLENDID, THAT THE KIND OF HOSPITALITY AND
THE CONCERN FOR SECURITY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND THE OFFICIALS HERE -- BOTH HERE AND
THE NATIONAL ONES -- HAVE REALLY BEEN OUTSTANDING. I
CANNOT COMPLIMENT HIGHLY ENOUGH OUR HOSTS ON THE ENTIRE
SET OF ARRANGEMENTS THAT THEY HAVE MADE, NOR CAN I
IN ANY WAY SAY ANYTHING EXCEPT POSITIVE THINGS
ABOUT THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS THAT THEY MADE FOR US.

QUESTION: ARE YOU DISASSOCIATING YOURSELF FROM
MR. DAYAN'S COMMENTS?

CARTER: I AM NOT DISASSOCIATING MYSELF FROM ANYBODY,
I AM ASSOCIATING MYSELF WITH THE FEELINGS OF THE
DELEGATION.

QUESTION: CAN YOU SAY IF YESTERDAY'S FIVE AND A HALF
HOURS COMPLETED THE INITIAL RUN THROUGH ON THE TWO
SETS OF PROPOSALS OR IS THERE STILL MORE TO BE DONE ON

THAT?

CARTER: I DON'T BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING WAS COVERED
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ON THE TWO SETS OF PROPOSALS. I BELIEVE THAT THERE
WAS UNDOUBTEDLY IN SOME OF THE BILATERALS FURTHER
EXPOSITION ON IT AND THERE MAY BE MORE THIS AFTERNOON.
I WOULD JUST HESITATE TO SAY EXACTLY WHAT IS GOING
TO HAPPEN THIS AFTERNOON. I WOULD JUST HESITATE TO
SAY EXACTLY WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN THIS AFTERNOON IN
THE PLENARY. INCIEENTALLY, THE PLENARY THIS
AFTERNOON WILL BE LIMITED TO THE THREE MAJOR
PARTICIPANTS ON EACH SIDE, THE ONES WHO HAVE BEEN AT
THE TABLE AS OPPOSED TO THOSE OF US SITTING AROUND
IN CHAIRS IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM, THAT IS TO SAY
NINE PEOPLE IN ALL WILL BE IN THAT ROOM.

QUESTION: ANY REASON FOR THIS?

CARTER: FRANKLY I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE IS ANY GREAT
REASON FOR THIS EXCEPT THEY FEEL THAT THEY CAN MOVE
WITH GREATER DISPATCH IN A SMALLER GROUPING. SINCE
THE ONLY PARTICIPANTS IN ANY CASE HAVE BEEN THOSE SITTING
AT THE TABLE, THEY MAY HAVE THOUGHT THAT I NEEDED
TO PLAY MORE TENNIS, I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE ONLY
BEEN ABLE TO PLAY TWICE (LAUGHTERWLM

QUESTION: FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW MUST THERE BE
FURTHER ISRAELI ELEMENTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO PROCEED
BEYOND THIS TWO-DAY MEETING?

CARTER: ORDINARILY I WOULD ANSWER THAT ONE, BUT SINCE
THE SECRETARY IS COMING HERE AT 4.30 PM I REALLY WISH
YOU WOULD HOLD IT FOR HIM.

QUESTION: MAYBE YOU CAN TELL US HAVE THEE BEEN ANY
DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS TWO-EAY MEETING?

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 14472 VICE 04472)

CARTER: I WOULD NOT CHARACTERIZE ANYTHING THAT HAS BEEN HEARD AS NEW ELEMENTS -- I MEAN NEW ELEMENTS BEYOND THE PLANS THAT HAVE BEEN ADVANCED BY THE TWO SIDES.

QUESTION: HAS THERE BEEN ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES THAT THE TWO PLANS OVERLAP IN ANY AREAS?

CARTER: I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO SPEAK FOR THE TWO SIDES. IT IS THE AMERICAN BELIEF THAT THERE ARE AREAS OF OVERLAP AND I DON'T REALLY HAVE TO LAY THEM OUT FOR YOU. IF YOU PUT THE TWO PLANS DOWN NEXT TO EACH OTHER, YOU SEE SOME AREAS OF OVERLAP, IF NOTHING ELSE THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION.

QUESTION: DO YOU KNOW WHO SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETINGS DO NOT TAKE PLACE AS FORMAL MEETINGS BETWEEN ALL THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTIES CONCERNED.

CARTER: THEV ARE, WE ARE HAVING FORMAL MEETINGS BETWEEN ALL THE PARTIES. IN SO FAR WE HAVE AS WHY WE HAVE FEWER NUMBERS THIS AFTERNOON, I REALLY DON'T KNOW. BUT I CAN SAY THIS, IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF EVENTS MY PRINCIPAL ORDINARILY FEELS THAT THE FEWER YOU HAVE IN A ROOM THE BETTER ABLE YOU ARE TO TALK.

QUESTION: I THINK THE QUESTION WAS WHY THE BILATERALS WERE HELD RATHER THAN THE TRILATERAL THIS MORNING. WHO DECIDED THAT?

CARTER: I THINK THEY ALL AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE BILATERALS.

QUESTION: AND DURING THESE BILATERAL TALKS DID YOU FEEL THAT AMERICANS HAD PRESENTED SOME KIND OF IDEAS OR PROPOSALS?

CARTER: NO.

QUESTION: DID THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHUTTLE BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS?

CARTER: I THINK WE ARE BEYOND ME BEING CAUGHT IN THE TRAP OF WHETHER WE ARE IN TO SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY. NO. HE SIMPLY WALKED BETWEEN ONE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE OTHER. A VIGOROUS WALK. SURE, HE WENT CALLING AT THEIR WINGS OF THE CASTLE.

QUESTION: COMING AND GOING, THAT IS TO SAY, SEVERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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TIMES?

CARTER: NO. HE HAD ONE LONG SESSION AND ONE LONG SESSION

QUESTION: AND ARE THEY LUNCHING TOGETHER - THE PRINCIPALS?

CARTER: WE ARE ALL LUNCHING TOGETHER.

QUESTION: IS IT POSSIBLE FOR VANCE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH WASHINGTON, DAYAN WITH JERUSALEM AND KAMEL WITH CAIRO, TECHNICALLY? DO THOSE FACILITIES EXIST?

CARTER: IT IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE. I GUESS THE LARGER QUESTION IS WHETHER MR. VANCE HAS TALKED TO THE PRESIDENT. I THINK THE ANSWER IS NO. CERTAINLY WE HAVE SENT BACK FULL REPORTING ON WHAT'S GOING ON HERE. I DON'T THINK HOWEVER THAT WE HAVE ASKED FOR ANY NEW INSTRUCTIONS OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT. I DON'T THINK THAT THAT KIND OF QUESTION HAS ARISEN.

QUESTION: WHEN HE MAKES HIS ANNOUNCEMENT ONLY A FEW HOURS FROM NOW, HE WILL NOT HAVE TALKED TO THE PRESIDENT IN THE MEANTIME. SO WHATEVER HE IS GOING TO ANNOUNCE HE CAME HERE READY TO ANNOUNCE. IS THAT CORRECT?

CARTER: VERY GOOD. (LAUGHTER). ALWAYS THERE ARE CONTINGENCIES THAT ARE IN HAND IF EVENTS MOVE IN ONE

DIRECTION OR ANOTHER AND OBVIOUSLY A NUMBER OF THINGS
HAVE BEEN THOUGHT THROUGH. AS TO THE EXACT - WHATEVER
HE HAS TO SAY, I REALLY DON'T KNOW IF IT IS GOING TO
TAKE THE FORM OF AN EXACT CONTINGENCY THAT WAS IN HAND.

QUESTION: DID YOU EXPECT THAT YOU WOULD REACH THIS
POSITION NOW?

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 14472 VICE 04472)

CARTER: WHAT WE HOPED AND EXPECTED WAS THAT WE WOULD
HAVE SERIOUS AND SUBSTANTIVE TALKS, AND WE HAVE.
THAT'S IT.

QUESTION: DO THE ISRAELIS AND THE EGYPTIANS AT THE
CASTLE REALLY HAVE THE FACILITIES TO PHONE SOMEHOW TO
CAIRO AND JERUSALEM. WE HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN PHONING

TO LONDON?

CARTER: WE DON'T HAVE THAT MANY OUTSIDE LINES ALL THE WAY AROUND, BUT I EXPECT THEY MUST HAVE SOME WAY. I THINK SOME THINGS WERE LAID IN FOR US. I THINK THAT FACILITIES WERE LAID IN FOR THE DELEGATIONS.

QUESTION: YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION -- DID YOU EXPECT TO REACH THIS POSITION BEFORE COMING HERE?

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CARTER: I CAN'T SAY WE EXPECTED TO REACH ANY POSITION. WE REALLY WANTED TO SEE WHAT COULD DEVELOP OUT OF THIS KIND OF DIALOGUE AND OBVIOUSLY YOU ALWAYS CONSIDER VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES THAT MAY ARISE. BUT TO SAY WE EXPECTED IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH.

QUESTION: BUT ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT?

CARTER: I THINK THAT'S A REALLY GOOD ONE FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO ANSWER.

QUESTION: WAS THE SUBSTANCE THAT YOU SAY WAS DISCUSSED LIMITED TO FURTHER EXPOSITIONS ON THOSE TWO PEACE PLANS OR DID IT GO BEYOND THAT INTO OTHER AREAS?

CARTER: IN MEANINGFUL TERMS, THE BULK OF THE CONVERSATION WAS ON THE TWO PEACE PLANS. I WOULD NOT SUGGEST TO YOU THAT Laterally OTHER THINGS WEREN'T TOUCHED UPON. BUT THE WHOLE THRUST OF WHAT WAS DONE WAS ON THE TWO PEACE PLANS.

QUESTION: FOR EXAMPLE, DID THEY GET INTO CERTAIN IDEAS THAT WERE ADVANCED BY PRESIDENT SADAT LAST WEEK?

CARTER: NO.

QUESTION: WHAT IS IT THAT REQUIRES THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO BE IN LONDON TONIGHT?

CARTER: TONIGHT HE WILL BE MEETING WITH SOME MEMBERS OF HIS SOUTHERN AFRICAN TEAM. I AM TRYING TO REMEMBER WHO ALL IS THERE. MR. GRAHAM AND PERHAPS MR. MOOSE, I AM NOT POSITIVE OF ALL THE PARTICIPANTS. BUT THE SUBJECT WILL BE SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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QUESTION: AND IS THAT WHAT THE BREAKFAST IS ABOUT TOMORRO
MORNING?

CARTER: I WOULD SAY THAT WOULD BE A MAJOR FOCUS OF THE
BREAKFAST.

QUESTION: WHY DID THE OTHER TWO SPOKESMEN NOT APPEAR
TODAY:

CARTER: FRANKLY BECAUSE WE WEREN'T GOING TO HAVE
ANYTHING OF ANY SUBSTANCE TO SAY, AND AS I SAID, ONE
PERSON COULD SAY THAT AS WELL AS THREE. THERE WASN'T
ANY HUDDLING ABOUT IT.

QUESTION: IS IT STILL THE AIM OF THE UNITED STATES TO
BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE A RESUMPTION OF DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN
ISRAEL AND EGYPT.

CARTER: I THINK THAT IS A VERY GOOD QUESTION TO ASK THE
SECRETARY.

THANK YOU.

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